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Press Release

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY HEATS UP IN HIALEAH!

Hialeah, Florida – Hialeah Firefighters at Station One celebrated “Bring Your Child to Work Day” with the City’s employees’ children this past Thursday, April 24, 2008. Captain Jose Perez, along with other firefighters, gave the group of nearly 15 children an overview of their daily lives as firefighters and showed them the equipment and different vehicles they use when going to assist in an emergency.

All of the children were excited to be in the fire station. They were anxious to find out what they would see and do in that mysterious place, so unknown to them. Playing to their excitement and anticipation, one of the fire-rescue medics asked for a volunteer to take his or her vital signs. Kimberly Carnevale volunteered and was placed on the stretcher with the help of other paramedics for the demonstration. They connected the EKG machine to her legs, arms, and chest to show the children how they measure a patient’s heart rate and oxygen levels in the blood during an emergency. She was really eager and impressed seeing, first hand, all the things that fire-rescue paramedics do in an emergency to check a patient’s vital signs and health. The firefighters also demonstrated how to take someone’s blood pressure by going through the simulation with another volunteer.

Afterwards, the officers asked for another volunteer to show the children how they use the back board and neck immobilizer when a person is involved in a traumatic accident that may have caused a spinal injury. Once the immobilizer demonstration was done, one of the fire fighters dressed up in full gear and explained to the children the purpose of every part of their outfit. The children’s eyes were wide open as the firefighters described the different scenarios they face and the vital role their tools serve. They were particularly amazed by the tool that flashes and beeps on a firefighter’s suit when they remain immobile, and the crucial role it serves to save the lives of incapacitated firefighters.

Moreover, the firefighters showed the children the different tools they carry in their three different types of trucks – ladder truck, rescue truck and fire truck. They also explained to the children what the various measuring gages they have in their trucks stand for. The children were also taught how to use the water hose, and

everyone was given the chance to try it out. In addition, they were given a tour of the fire station and got to know the daily routine of the firefighters. They even had the chance to listen to a trial emergency call that firefighters receive from the 911 dispatch when there is an emergency.

Captain Perez, who was leading the presentation and has been 23 years of service in the Fire Department, said he feels very happy to be able to teach the children about the firefighter's career and their daily routine. "As a kid, you always have questions about the life behind a firefighter or fire truck, and I like to take that mystery away from the children by explaining to them how everything works," he commented. "Maybe, if we keep doing these types of activities with the children, we can have a future firefighter added to our department. This is a career that I have loved for 23 years, and I would like to transmit my great experience to the children." Kimberly Carnevale, 13, daughter of Anthony Carnevale, who is an engineer for the Hialeah Fire Department, said she was very excited and eager to be part of this special day. "I have been around the fire station since I was a little girl, and I love everything about it," she exclaimed.

During this activity, the kids were able to experience the importance of their parents' daily roles on the community.